

Daily Global Intelligence Report – 24 November

SUMMARY

The Risk Intelligence Center (RIC) Daily Global Intelligence Report (INTREP) provides an overview of significant developments in the global security and threat landscape (Monday – Friday), to raise awareness of potential threats and flashpoints of risk, to support security decision-making. Items of intelligence interest featured in this INTREP have been selected based on their severity and ability to influence the security and threat landscape.

- **GLOBAL: WHO requests details on emerging respiratory illnesses in China**
- **AMEA: Australian Government to expand investment program for renewable energy**
- **AMERICAS: Pro-Palestine groups to disrupt Black Friday**
- **EUROPE: Riots in Dublin after knife attack injures five**

GLOBAL

WHO requests details on emerging respiratory illnesses in China: The World Health Organization (WHO) requested details about an increase in respiratory illnesses among children yesterday (23 Nov), following reports of the rise at a press conference made by China's National Health Commission on 13 November. While Chinese health authorities have attributed the increase in illnesses to the lift of COVID restrictions and the spread of known pathogens, it is required to respond to information requests from the WHO within 24~ hours as part of the International Health Regulations mechanism. In response to the spike in illness among children, Chinese state media acknowledged the spread by advising individuals to mitigate the risk of cases spreading by regularly handwashing, wearing masks, and taking vaccinations if necessary.

Comment: The spread of the virus is likely to cause alarm globally as it has the potential to become a pandemic. China is entering its first winter without any COVID restrictions and the spread of respiratory illness is almost certain to spread concerns for public health for individuals and organizations in China. Travel and supply chain operations are at risk of being reduced significantly if the illness spreads beyond its borders. It is possible that further increases in respiratory illness could cause virus strains to mutate and become viral in adults, further straining healthcare facilities. **End.**

AMEA

Australian Government to expand investment program for renewable energy: Australia's Energy Minister Chris Bowen stated the expansion of the Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) to reduce the country's reliance on coal and ensure more reliable energy supply, yesterday (23 Nov). Bowen highlighted Australia's aging coal-fired power stations as one of the biggest threats to the energy system and expressed the need for further investment into renewable energy as unexpected breakdowns at coal-fired stations place significant pressure on the energy grid. As part of the CIS expansion, the Government plans to add 32 gigawatts of capacity to the energy market which will help push Australia to its target of 82%~ renewable energy by 2030.

Comment: Expansions to the CIS are highly likely to be beneficial for organizations operating in Australia, as more renewable energy will create less frequent breakdowns causing strain on the energy grid, resulting in fewer power outages as the country reduces its reliance on coal power. It is possible that the improvements would attract new business to Australia and renew investor confidence as a strong energy grid will reduce the frequency of operational disruptions due to blackouts. Employment levels are expected to increase as the project generates thousands~ of new jobs under the scheme's new battery, solar, and wind projects. **End.**

AMERICAS

Pro-Palestine groups to disrupt Black Friday: Shut it Down for Palestine, an anti-war and pro-Palestine activist group, called for a day of action to be taken at commercial centers to disrupt Black Friday across the US today (24 Nov). The action is intended to harm the profits of organizations affiliated with funding Israel's 'genocide' in Gaza by boycotts and

rallies. The group has previously mobilized 600~ actions globally across 300~ cities that caused disruptions against organizations linked to Israel.

Comment: Pro-Palestine groups have campaigned for the boycotts of businesses with links to Israel, particularly those that operate within illegal settlements. As boycotts gain increasing momentum, organizations are at a high risk of being targeted during Black Friday to disrupt operations leading to a loss in consumers and reputational harm. Thanksgiving Day parades were disrupted by pro-Palestine activists as key dates are highly likely to continue to be used as flashpoints for protests. Despite the four-day truce in the conflict starting today (24 Nov), direct action is likely to continue until there is a complete ceasefire. **End.**

EUROPE

Riots in Dublin after knife attack injures five: Riot police were deployed on the streets of Dublin as violent disorder erupted in and around the city center following a knife attack that injured five people, including three children, yesterday (23 Nov). The unrest by anti-immigrant rioters was fueled by speculation that the attacker was of Algerian descent. Despite Irish authorities stating that it was not terror-related, vehicles were set ablaze, and shops looted by what was described by police as a *'lunatic, hooligan faction driven by a far-right ideology.'* Unverified videos on social media show protestors setting fire to the Holiday Inn Express in Dublin believed to be housing migrants.

Following 34~ arrests, some businesses remain closed and bus services have been reduced. The President of the Garda Representative Association stated that the police anticipate further violence and will review public order tactics, announced today (24 Nov).

Comment: This attack is likely to further the agenda of far-right, anti-migrant, and anti-Islamic groups in Ireland and Europe, increasingly so if the rumors of the attacker's nationality are confirmed to be accurate. Organizations and institutions believed to be pro-migration are highly likely to be targeted by far-right groups. It remains possible that a heavy police presence will remain in Dublin to maintain order and safeguard the public as the investigation continues. **End.**

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